

State of Utah DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING



Michael O. Leavitt Governor

Kathleen Clarke Executive Director Lowell P. Braxton Division Director 1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210 INSPECTION REPORT PO Box 145801

Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801

801-538-5340 801-359-3940 (Fax) 801-538-7223 (TDD) Partial: Complete: X Exploration: Inspection Date & Time: June 28, 1999, 2:15 to 4:30 PM

Date of Last Inspection: May 13, 1999

Mine Name: <u>Castle Gate</u> County: <u>Carbon</u> Permit Number: <u>ACT/007/004</u>

Permittee and/or Operator's Name: <u>Castle Gate Holding Company</u> Business Address: <u>847 Northwest Highway 191</u>, <u>Helper</u>, <u>Utah 84526</u>

Type of Mining Activity: Underground X Surface Prep. Plant Other_

State Officials(s): <u>Paul Baker</u> Company Official(s): <u>Johnny Pappas</u>

Federal Official(s): None
Weather Conditions: 80's, clear

Existing Acreage: Permitted-7509.5 Disturbed-61 Regraded-abt. 29 Seeded-abt 29 Bonded-61

Increased/Decreased: Permitted-<u>0</u> Disturbed-<u>0</u> Regraded-<u>0</u> Seeded-<u>0</u> Bonded-<u>0</u> Status: _Exploration/_Active/_Inactive/_Temporary Cessation/_Bond Forfeiture Reclamation (X Phase I/_Phase II/_Final Bond Release/_Liability_Year)

REVIEW OF PERMIT, PERFORMANCE STANDARDS & PERMIT CONDITION REQUIREMENTS

Instructions

- 1. Substantiate the elements on this inspection by checking the appropriate performance standard.
 - a. For <u>complete inspections</u> provide narrative justification for any elements not fully inspected unless element is not appropriate to the site, in which case check N/A.
 - b. For partial inspections check only the elements evaluated.
- 2. Document any noncompliance situation by referencing the NOV issued at the appropriate performance standard listed below.
- 3. Reference any narratives written in conjunction with this inspection at the appropriate performance standard listed below.
- 4. Provide a brief status report for all pending enforcement actions, permit conditions, Division Orders, and amendments.

1. 2. 3.	PERMITS, CHANGE, TRANSFER, RENEWAL, SALE SIGNS AND MARKERS TOPSOIL	EVALUATED [X] [X] [X]	<u>N/A</u> ∐ ∐ ∐	COMMENTS L1 L1 L1	NOV/ENF Ll Ll Ll
b. c. d.	HYDROLOGIC BALANCE: DIVERSIONS SEDIMENT PONDS AND IMPOUNDMENTS OTHER SEDIMENT CONTROL MEASURES WATER MONITORING EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS	[X] [X] [X] [X] [X]			
5. 6. 7. 8. 9.	EXPLOSIVES DISPOSAL OF EXCESS SPOIL/FILLS/BENCHES COAL MINE WASTE/REFUSE PILES/IMPOUNDMENTS NONCOAL WASTE PROTECTION OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND	[] [X] [X]			
10. 11. 12. 13. 14.	RELATED ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES SLIDES AND OTHER DAMAGE CONTEMPORANEOUS RECLAMATION BACKFILLING AND GRADING REVEGETATION SUBSIDENCE CONTROL CESSATION OF OPERATIONS	[X] [X] [X] [X] [X] []			
	ROADS: CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE/SURFACING DRAINAGE CONTROLS OTHER TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES SUPPORT FACILITIES/UTILITY INSTALLATIONS AVS CHECK (4th Quarter-April, May, June)_(date) AIR QUALITY PERMIT BONDING & INSURANCE	[X] [X] [] [X] [X] [X] [X]			

INSPECTION REPORT

(Continuation sheet)

Page <u>2</u> of <u>2</u>

PERMIT NUMBER: ACT/007/004

DATE OF INSPECTION: June 28, 1999

(Comments are Numbered to Correspond with Topics Listed Above)

4. Hydrologic Balance

c. Other Sediment Control Measures

The straw bales in the lower part of Hardscrabble Canyon are still functional, but they should be replaced soon.

9. Protection of Fish, Wildlife and Related Environmental Values

The person doing weed control in Sowbelly Gulch said he found two mountain lions near the substation. We found a dead elk toward the upper part of the canyon, and based on the information from the weed sprayer, the elk was probably eaten by the lions.

13. Revegetation

We cut several musk thistle plants in Sowbelly Gulch and a few in Hardscrabble Canyon. The operator has hired a person to spray these weeds, but some were apparently missed. We also found a new patch of whitetop in Sowbelly, and we cut off the flowers. This should be sprayed as soon as possible. There was another patch we found in 1997 and again last year that we could not find.

The vegetation in Sowbelly has made good progress in the last year, but there are still some bare areas and places with weeds.

In Hardscrabble Canyon, most of the areas seeded last summer look like there are adequate numbers of seedlings. There are a couples of areas that look like they were not seeded, and there are a few that look like they were seeded but where it may be very difficult to get vegetation established. Susan White, reclamation biologist with the Division, suggests these areas not be reseeded or that they only be reseeded with forbs because this method has sometimes increased diversity.

19. AVS Check

This information was reviewed as part of the annual report. The president of the company has changed, but since it appears the mine has been sold, there would be little benefit to updating the information in the plan at this time.

21. Bonding and Insurance

The insurance policy was renewed effective June 30, 1999, until June 30, 2000. The Certificate of Insurance was issued to the State of Utah, Division of Oil, Gas and Mining, and the "assured" are RAG American Coal Holding, Inc, et al, including Castlegate Holding Company.

Copy of this Report:

Mailed to: James Fulton (OSM), Johnny Pappas (Castle Gate)

Given to: Joe Helfrich (DOGM)

Inspector's Signature:

Paul B. Baker #41 Date: July 9, 1999